

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FORT L 01160 171825Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EA-11 NEA-10 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /194 W
----- 109006

R 171230Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6821

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L FORT LAMY 1160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CD FR

SUBJ: CHADIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND FRENCH CONNECTION

1. SUMMARY: IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTE TALK ALONE WITH PRESIDENT
TOMBALBAYE FOLLOWING SHORT CEREMONY BEFORE PRESS CORPS
PRESENTING MOON ROCK AND CHADIAN FLAG CARRIED TO MOON ABOARD
APOLLO 17 PRESIDENT MADE IT CLEAR HE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO US OPINION OF HIM AND HIS "NEW DIRECTIONS" IN FOREIGN POLICY
FIELD. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR US ASSISTANCE DURING DROUGHT AND HOPES
FOR CONTINUED AID. HE SPOKE WITH VEHEMENCE ABOUT HIS
DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN REAL INDEPENDENCE FROM FRANCE, TO
DE-FRENCHIFY CHAD AND DEVELOP HONEST CHADIAN INSTITUTIONS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FORT L 01160 171825Z

CULTURE AS MANY OTHER FRANCOPHONE STATES ARE NOW DOING. US

NEED HAVE NO WORRY THAT HE WILL REPLACE FRENCH CONTROL BY SOVIET, CHINESE, ARAB OR AMERICAN DOMINATION. HE SEEMS TO HAVE SET HIS FOOT ON "AUTHENTICITY" PATH A LA MOBUTU AND TO BE COMPLETELY SERIOUS ABOUT LOOSENING FRENCH TIES WHICH MAY WELL INCLUDE EVENTUAL EXPULSION OF FRENCH MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR FAMINE-RELIEF US IS PROVIDING, TOMBALBAYE ASKED ME TO STATE FRANKLY HOW "AMERICANS" VIEWED "NEW DIRECTIONS" HE HAS BEEN TAKING OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. BEFORE ALLOWING ME TO ANSWER HE EXPLAINED CHAD IS "ALMOST SURROUNDED BY ARABS" AND FOR SAKE OF NATIONAL SECURITY IT WAS ESSENTIAL HE MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM. I TOLD HIM I HAD HEARD OF NO CRITICISM AGAINST HIS NEW POLICIES FROM ANY AMERICAN QUARTER, INCLUDING USG OR PRESS AND I THOUGHT NO AMERICAN WOULD BEGRUDGE HIM GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND GREATER LATITUDE OF ACTION HE HAS SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE. I QUOTED POLICY STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY TO EFFECT US WANTED NEW AFRICAN NATIONS TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE ONES US WOULD MAKE. US WANTED AFRICANS TO BE INDEPENDENT OF FORMER COLONIAL MASTER, INDEPENDENT OF SOVIETS AND INDEPENDENT OF US. TOLD HIM I WAS SURE I COULD FIND QUOTATIONS IN SAME VEIN FROM JOHNSON AND NIXON ADMINISTRATIONS. THIS CLEARLY PLEASED PRESIDENT WHO VENTURED ONLY SMILE DURING OUR TALK.

3. I FOLLOWED THIS AT ONCE WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT HE WAS NOT HEADING FOR SUDDEN, CLEAN BREAK WITH FRANCE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, I ASKED HIM (AS OLD SCHOOLTEACHER), TO CHADIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IF FRENCH "COOPERANTS" ARE WITHDRAWN? WITH MUCH FEELING HE ANSWERED THAT PRESENT SYSTEM TURNS OUT TOO MANY "LITERARY TYPES AND PHILOSOPHERS THAT WE DON'T NEED" BESIDES QUALITY OF TEACHERS FRANCE SENDS IS LOW. HE KNOWS FRENCH AND THEIR GOOD AND BAD QUALITIES, BUT, ALAS, WHEN IT COMES TO CHAD THEY UNFAILINGLY SHOW THEIR WORST QUALITIES. CHAD MUST DE-FRENCHIFY SCHOOL SYSTEM AND EVERYTHING ELSE, BUILD ITS OWN INSTITUTIONS. WAXING VEHEMENT AND POUNDING THIGH WITH HIS FIST, HE CLAIMED FRENCH HAD OCCUPIED CHAD FOR SIXTY YEARS AND LEFT ALMOST NOTHING TO SHOW. THIRTEEN YEARS AGO THEY GRANTED INDEPENDENCE, BUT IT WAS ONLY "THEORETICAL INDEPENDENCE, NOT ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND CERTAINLY NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 FORT L 01160 171825Z

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE". IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM GOF PLANNED TO STAND AGAINST CHAD'S REAL INDEPENDENCE. HE WAS UTTERLY DETERMINED TO SEIZE REAL INDEPENDENCE FOR CHAD AS CAR, MALI, MAURETANIA, CAMEROON, CONGO AND MALAGASY REPUBLIC ARE DOING. "WE ARE AFRICANS, NOT BLACK FRENCHMEN, AND WE MUST ACT AS AFRICANS AND LIVE AS AFRICANS", HE SAID WITH MUCH FEELING. HE WANTED CHADIANS, ABOVE ALL, TO HAVE AN "INDEPENDENCE OF THE SPIRIT", PRIDE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

IT WAS IMPORTANT US SHOULD UNDERSTAND HE WOULD NEVER REPLACE FRENCH CONTROL WITH SOVIET, CHINESE, ARAB OR AMERICAN DOMINATION. I ASSURED HIM WE WOULD NEVER QUESTION HIS SINCERITY IN THIS REGARD.

4. MY EFFORT TO OBTAIN CLEARER INDICATION OF HOW ABRUPTLY HE INTENDS TO BREAK FRENCH TIES WAS NOT COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, BUT OTHER QUESTIONS LED HIM TO STRESS HIS RESENTMENT OF CONTINUED FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN CHAD AND OF ECONOMIC AND CURRENCY ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH WHICH CHADIAN ECONOMY IS COMPLETELY TIED TO FRANCE'S.

5. AID AND OTHER ECONOMIC SUBJECTS COVERED WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPTEL.

6. COMMENT: CHAD'S LIMITED MEDIA RESOURCES OVER PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE KEPT UP DRUMFIRE OF INCREASING INTENSITY AGAINST FOCCART-TYPE-NEO-COLONIALISTS, CHURNED OUT FLORIDLY --IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR--BY HIS HAITIAN COUNSELORS, LUBIN AND VIXAMAR. THE STYLE AND CONTENT, HOWEVER, IS ALL TOMBALBAYE. PRESS AND RADIO ARE CURRENTLY STRESSING PANIC WHICH REIGNED JULY 8 (FORT LAMY 1149) AMONG FRENCH COLONIES OF FORT LAMY AND SARH. THEY CONTEND THAT MANY TOOK REFUGE AT TWO MAIN BASES WHERE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WERE ON STANDBY. LE MONDE JULY 5 EDITORIAL LAMENTING TOMBALBAYE'S "DISARRAY" AFTER WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM AND CRITICAL ARTICLE (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN) IN RECENT "LETTRE AFRICAINE" BY "COLONIALIST" CHRISTIAN JELLE ARE ATTACKED AS PARTICULARLY IRKSOME AND AS EXEMPLIFYING FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD CHAD. WE ARE TOLD TO EXPECT EARLY NAME CHANGE FOR FORT LAMY AND FOR "DE-BAPTISM" OF MANY OF ITS (STILL FRENCH) STREET NAMES.

7. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TOMBALBAYE IS COMPLETELY SERIOUS ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 FORT L 01160 171825Z

CHANGING CHAD'S IMAGE AND CHANGING IT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. BUT IT IS SOMETHING OF COMFORT TO REPORT THAT HE DID NOT REPEAT TO ME HIS IMPETUOUS ASSURANCE TO MY FRG COLLEAGUE LAST WEEK THAT CHAD COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT THE FRENCH ON TWO DAYS' NOTICE. FOR THE MOEMENT HIS CAMPAIGN IS LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY STRIVING FOR GREATER CHADIAN "AUTHENTICITY" AND MORE INTENSE EFFORTS TO FIND NEW SOURCES FOR LESSENERED AID FRENCH WILL PROBABLY THREATEN.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FORTL01160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MULCAHYN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: FORT LAMY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730729/aaaaavia.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHADIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND FRENCH CONNECTION
TAGS: PFOR, CD, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005